



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (15-5057)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)
 [AUDIO 2](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, Commissioner Johanna Arias-Bhatia, Vice Chairperson Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Susan Burton, Commissioner Percy Duran III, Commissioner Keren M. Goldberg, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Theresa Zhen

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Roy Sinclair and Jenny Kimbell. (15-5060)

Call to Order. (15-4995)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioners Zhen and Burton joined at 10:07 and 10:12 a.m. respectfully.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the October 14, 2015 Minutes. (15-4996)

On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Percy Duran and unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2. Department of Auditor-Controller (AC). (15-4997)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report during the month of September 2015:

There were a total of 15 Hotline Requests for Assistance Calls.

- 11 Youth callers**
- 4 Adult callers**

In continuing her report, Ms. Day reported that there were two Outreach visits to the following facilities:

- Crittenton Services for Children and Families**
- Junior Blind of America**

Ms. Day provided the Commission with a copy of the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Semi-Annual Report for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2015.

3. Internal Services Department (ISD). (15-4998)

There was no report presented.

4. Department of Mental Health (DMH). (15-4999)

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, LCSW, Program Director, DMH, reported that the DMH contracted group homes are producing quality mental health services and the Department has provided additional funding for Step Down services. The Department is preparing to release a funding stream called Field Capable Clinical Services (FCCS), beginning in November 2015. This service will give providers funding to assist with preparing children to transition back into less restricted areas.

Commissioner Goldberg recommended that the DMH invite representatives from the Outreach and Engagement section and FCCS to answer inquiries from the Commission.

5. Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). (15-5000)

Patricia Bolanos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator II, Out of

Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the month of September 2015 there were a total of 769 Absent Without Leave (AWOL) and the child abuse hotline received a total of 21 referrals in the following categories:

- 6 Physical Abuse (PA)
- 2 Emotional Abuse (EA)
- 5 Sexual Abuse (SA)
- 8 General Neglect (GN)

Total referrals closed: 4

- 1 GN
- 2 SA
- 1 PA

Ms. Bolanons-Gonzalez also reported that two Group Homes are currently on HOLD:

- Deliann Lucile (placed on Hold by Out-of-Home Care Investigations Section)
- Macro Home (placed on Hold by Contracts Administration Division)

6. Probation Department (PD). (15-5001)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the status of group home AWOLs for the month of August 2015 as follows:

There were 138 AWOLs involving 127 youth:

- 59 Remain AWOL
- 43 Returned to group homes
- 1 Camp Community Placement
- 22 Placed in Juvenile Hall
- 1 HOP
- 1 Terminated

Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with the status of group home

AWOLs for the month of September 2015 as follows:

There were 133 AWOLs involving 117 youth:

- **44 Remain AWOL**
- **50 Returned to group homes**
- **1 Camp Community Placement**
- **22 Placed in Juvenile Hall**

Ms. Pease also provided the Commission with detailed monthly status reports of group home AWOLs during the months of August and September 2015.

- 7. Sheriff's Department (SD). (15-5002)**

Commander Henry Romero introduced himself to the Commission as the new Commander replacing Commander Ornelas. Commander Romero addressed concerns and answered questions posed by the Commission.

The Commission requested a copy of the Sheriff Town hall meeting schedule.

III. COMMISSION REPORTS

- 8. Chairperson's Report on various items. (15-5003)**

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Daily Breeze Newspaper Article with the Commission:

Wanted: A New Breed of Deputy (October 20, 2015)

- 9. Treasurer's Report. (15-5004)**

Commissioner Andrews reported that the balance of the Commissioner's Charitable Fund remains at \$408.90.

- 10. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports. (15-5005)**

There was no report presented.

- 11. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from October 15, 2015 to October 20, 2015. (15-5006)**

During the reporting period, the following group homes/facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:

- Orange County Children's Foundation (Gramercy Ave., Torrance, CA) on October 15, 2015.
- Norwalk Sheriff Station (Civic Center Drive, Norwalk, CA) on October 16, 2015.
- Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse (Magnolia, Long Beach, CA) October 19, 2015.

Commissioner Duran visited:

- Boys/Girls Republic (Garey Ave., Pomona, CA) on October 20, 2015.
- Eggleston Youth Center (La Verne Ave., Pomona, CA) on October 20, 2015.
- Eggleston Youth Center Diana Ave., Pomona, CA) on October 20, 2015.

Vice Chairperson Bigby visited:

- Careprovider Org Foundation (Kidder Ave., Covina, CA) on October 15, 2015.

Unavailable:

Commissioner Arias-Bhatia visited:

- Boys/Girls Republic (Garey Ave., Pomona, CA) on October 20, 2015 and reported that no one was home.

Commissioner Zhen visited:

- Beverly Hills Courthouse (Burton Way, Beverly Hills, CA) on October 20, 2015 and reported that this facility has no lockup area.

IV. DISCUSSION

12. Discussion on the work, roles and responsibility of the Office of Inspector General. (15-5010)

Mr. Max Huntsman, Inspector General (IG), Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Ms. Cathleen Beltz, Assistant IG, presented a general overview of the services provided by the OIG. Their presentation highlighted the mission and goals of the OIG. Mr. Huntsman stated that the OIG will take the place of the Office of Independent Review (OIR) that handled disciplinary systems and the Office of Ombudsman that handled low level complaints.

Once the OIG's Ordinance was implemented, the OIG was able to take on these responsibilities. The Civilian Oversight Commission will aid in an

analytical role, giving helpful and power advice by collecting information and by interacting with the community to address concerns. One successful implementation was the use of IPads that has replaced the old paper system used to submit grievances.

In responding to the Commissions inquires, Mr. Huntsman advised the Commission that the OIG is working closely with the Sheriff's Department in order to fulfill their mission of providing follow-up information to issues. Although the OIG cannot make changes, departments are obligated to answer them.

Mr. Huntsman recommended that the Commission be in continual contact whether formally or informally with the OIG, to maintain an ongoing dialogue and to discuss potential areas where their work intersects and ways they can collaborate. A copy of the OIG tool will be forwarded to the SBC staff for distribution to the Commissioners as well as any recommendations that the Commission may have for the IG.

Following the presentation were questions, answers and further deliberation by the Commissioners. Chair Montano thanked the OIG their presentation and SBC looks forward to possibly collaborating with the OIG in the future.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

13. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-5007)

The following items were introduced for discussion and are to be placed on a future agenda:

- Discussion and recommendation on the OIG presentation
- Discussion and recommendation on constructing a letter to the Office of Child Protection
- Discussion and recommendation on SBC reporting to the Board of Supervisors

Public Comment

14. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-5008)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

15. Adjournment for the meeting of October 21, 2015. (15-5009)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of October 21, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.